



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

OPERATION ICE PALACE  
**HEAD SHOP CLERK PLEADS GUILTY  
TO METH-RELATED CHARGES**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an employee of a Forsyth, Mo., head shop pleaded guilty in federal court today to her role in a conspiracy to distribute ingredients used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Today's guilty plea is the result of Operation Ice Palace, a long-term investigation into the illegal sale of large quantities of over-the-counter cold medications to methamphetamine manufacturers in southwest Missouri. Operation Ice Palace resulted in a series of indictments by a federal grand jury against 53 defendants.

**Melissa D. Deputy**, 29, of Branson, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to participating in a conspiracy to distribute pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, from May 2000 to June 4, 2003.

**Deputy** admitted that, while employed at The Castle, a head shop in Forsyth, from October 2001 to October 2002, she was instructed to sell 20 boxes of pseudoephedrine at one time. On two occasions, Graves said, **Deputy** sold between 100 and 300 grams of pseudoephedrine to undercover law enforcement officers with COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team).

Under federal statutes, **Deputy** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Nine co-defendants have pleaded guilty to charges contained in this indictment. The original indictment was returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield on March 31, 2004, and

later replaced by superseding indictments.

\* **Roxanne Bradley**, 56, of Springfield, the owner and operator of Springfield Discount Liquors I, 2736 N. Kansas Expressway in Springfield, and Springfield Discount Liquors II, 1423 E. Kearney in Springfield, pleaded guilty on April 7, 2005, to participating in the conspiracy to distribute pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, and to distributing pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

On several occasions, Graves said, **Bradley** sold hundreds or thousands of pseudoephedrine pills at a time to undercover officers. In total, undercover officers purchased, either directly from **Bradley** or through an employee, 3,288 30-milligram dosage pills, which is nearly 100 grams of pseudoephedrine.

Those undercover sales occurred at the Liquors I location on Kansas Expressway, Graves said. **Bradley** received large quantities of pseudoephedrine at both stores, then transported the pseudoephedrine to the Kansas Expressway location to sell to individuals. Because both properties were used to facilitate the criminal conspiracy as well as in the distribution of pseudoephedrine, Graves explained, those properties are subject to be forfeited to the government.

\* **Joanne E. Lee**, 44, of Powersite, Mo., pleaded guilty on April 7, 2005, to participating in the conspiracy to distribute pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, and to distributing pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

**Lee** admitted that, while employed at The Castle, a head shop in Forsyth, from May 2000 to Oct. 17, 2002, she sold large amounts of pseudoephedrine to customers without regard for the purposes for which the customers would use the product. For example, Graves said, **Lee** sold up to 20 boxes at a time to one customer and repeated that sale multiple times during the same month. **Lee** conducted several of these types of transactions, knowing that the pseudoephedrine was being purchased by individuals to manufacture methamphetamine. On April 11, 2002, **Lee** assisted another employee in the sale of 960 pills of Swan 30-milligram dosage pseudoephedrine to undercover officers, having reasonable cause to believe that the pseudoephedrine would be used for the manufacture of methamphetamine.

\* **Maynard F. Brown**, 59, of Isabella, Mo., owner of Hilltop Store in Isabella, pleaded guilty on March 31, 2005, to participating in a conspiracy to distribute or possess pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

**Brown** admitted that he purchased large amounts of pseudoephedrine from D and D Distributing, some of which he diverted to individuals who used the pseudoephedrine to manufacture methamphetamine. The most readily provable amount that the government can show that **Brown** distributed as part of the conspiracy is between 100 to 300 grams of pseudoephedrine. Additionally, during the time **Brown** was selling pseudoephedrine to

individuals making methamphetamine, he possessed at least one firearm, an Armi Tanfoglio Giuseppe .25-caliber semi-automatic handgun. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal to be in possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense.

\* **Ruby A. Studyvin**, 42, of Duneweg, Mo., pleaded guilty on March 31, 2005, to participating in the conspiracy to distribute or possess pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

**Studyvin** admitted that, while employed at 171 Smoke Shop in Asbury, Mo., she assisted with the large scale sale of pseudoephedrine to individuals that she knew were going to use the pseudoephedrine to manufacture methamphetamine. On May 28, 2003, **Studyvin** sold 288 30-milligram pseudoephedrine tablets to undercover officers.

\* **Kim Olesen**, 52, pleaded guilty on March 30, 2005, to distributing pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

**Olesen** admitted that, while employed at the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Express Stop in Joplin, Mo., she sold 1,152 pills of 30-milligram dosage pseudoephedrine to undercover officers.

\* **Paul Wells**, 27, and **Lori J. Williams**, 36, both of Aurora, Mo., pleaded guilty on March 29, 2005, to participating in a conspiracy to distribute pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. **Wells** and **Williams** were employees of Lauffer's Handi-Mart in Aurora.

By pleading guilty, both **Wells** and **Williams** admitted that, while working at Lauffer's Handi-Mart, they sold large amounts of pseudoephedrine to persons whom they knew were using the pseudoephedrine to manufacture methamphetamine. The most reasonably foreseeable and readily provable amount that **Wells** and **Williams** distributed or intended to distribute during the conspiracy was between 40 to 70 grams of pseudoephedrine.

On Jan. 14, 2003, **Wells** and **Williams** were in possession of 1,440 pills of 30 milligram dosage pseudoephedrine, which they intended to provide to persons whom they knew would use it to manufacture methamphetamine.

\* **Larry L. Crow**, 38, of Mountain Home, Ark., pleaded guilty on March 25, 2005, to participating in a conspiracy to distribute pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, and to possessing a firearm in relation to that offense.

**Crow**, a sales agent for D and D Distributing, sold large amounts of pseudoephedrine to various retail stores in southwest Missouri. **Crow** was told to sell the stores 488 boxes of pseudoephedrine per month, Graves said, and to provide the stores with multiple invoices for each transaction so as to appear to conform with Drug Enforcement Administration regulations. During this time, Graves said, **Crow** sold pseudoephedrine to numerous stores that were "non-traditional" markets for pseudoephedrine, such as liquor stores, bars, laundromats and adult video stores. The most readily available amount that **Crow** was responsible for distributing was

over three kilograms of pseudoephedrine. During the time of the conspiracy, Graves added, **Crow** carried a .45-caliber Ruger handgun.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert. Operation Ice Palace was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Lawrence County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Ozark County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Arkansas State Police, and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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